

The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-100, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please add Claims 101-124 to read as follows.

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101. (New) An office apparatus which can be connected to an external apparatus via a network, said office apparatus comprising:

reception control means for controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train and data;

control means for controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

memory management means for managing a memory area for executing the command train included in the received agent information;

transmission control means for controlling, responsive to said control means terminating execution of the control program based on the command train, a transmission process of transmitting a process end notice to the external apparatus so as to cause a display unit of the external apparatus to display a process end confirmation window;

obtainment means for obtaining a reply to the process end notice from the external apparatus,

wherein said memory management means releases the memory area in response to said obtainment means obtaining the reply from the external apparatus.

102. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 101, wherein,
said control means controls the processing mechanism to execute a print process,
said transmission control means controls, responsive to the processing mechanism terminating execution of the print process, a transmission process of transmitting a print end notice to the external apparatus so as to cause the display unit of the external apparatus to display a print end confirmation window, and
said obtainment means obtains the reply sent from the external apparatus in response to a user of the external apparatus entering a print end confirmation.

103. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 101, further comprising an execution means for executing the command train to determine whether a result of processing by the processing mechanism is an unrecoverable error, and if the result of processing is an unrecoverable error, writing the occurrence of the unrecoverable error to a memory area which is dynamically reserved for the agent information as a data field.

104. (New) An office apparatus which can be connected to a network comprising:
reception control means for controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train in which a work flow is

programmed describing a series of processes to be executed in a plurality of office apparatuses;

control means for controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

execution means for executing one of the series of processes described in the work flow to be executed in said office apparatus; and

transmission control means for controlling, responsive to said execution means terminating execution of the one process, a transmission process of automatically transmitting the agent information to an external office apparatus so as to cause the external apparatus to execute the command train based on the work flow.

105. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said execution means executes the command train to determine whether a result of processing by the processing mechanism is an unrecoverable error, and wherein if the result of processing is an unrecoverable error, said execution means adds the occurrence of the unrecoverable error to the data and requests said transmission control means to transmit the agent information including the resulting data.

106. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said office apparatus is a printer, and wherein the work flow is programmed such that the printer executes a print process and then transmits image data for printing to the external office apparatus and such that the external office apparatus stores the image data.

107. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said transmission control means controls the transmission process to copy the agent information in whole or in part and distributes the copied agent information to at least one external office apparatus such that the series of processes described in the work flow may be executed in parallel.

108. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 104, wherein the agent information controls in the external office apparatus a process of voluntarily releasing a memory area reserved for the agent information with image data for printing processed by the agent information being retained.

109. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 104, wherein the processing mechanism includes at least one of an image filing mechanism, a scanner mechanism and a printer mechanism.

110. (New) A network system including an office apparatus and an external apparatus, said system comprising:

input means for inputting agent information including a command train and data;

control means for controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the agent information input by said input means, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

memory management means for managing a memory area for executing the command train included in the input agent information;

transmission control means for controlling, responsive to said control means terminating execution of the control program based on the command train, a transmission process of transmitting a process end notice to the external apparatus;

display control means for controlling a display process of displaying a process end confirmation window on a display unit of said external apparatus in response to the process end notice transmitted by said transmission control means;

response means for sending a reply to the transmitted process end notice from said external apparatus to said office apparatus; and

obtainment means for obtaining the reply sent by said response means,

wherein said memory management means releases the memory area in response to said obtainment means obtaining the reply from said external apparatus.

111. (New) A system including a plurality of office apparatuses which can be connected to a network, each office apparatus comprising:

reception control means for controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train in which a work flow is programmed describing a series of processes to be executed in said plurality of office apparatuses;

control means for controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

execution means for executing one of the series of processes described in the work flow to be executed in said office apparatus; and

transmission control means for controlling, responsive to said execution means terminating execution of the one process, a transmission process of automatically transmitting the agent information to another of said plurality of office apparatuses so as to cause said another office apparatus to execute the command train based on the work flow.

112. (New) A control method for controlling an office apparatus which can be connected to an external apparatus via a network, said control method comprising:

a reception control step, of controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train and data;

a control step, of controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

a memory management step, of managing a memory area for executing the command train included in the received agent information;

a transmission control step, of controlling, responsive to said control step terminating execution of the control program based on the command train, a transmission process of transmitting a process end notice to the external apparatus so as to cause a display unit of the external apparatus to display a process end confirmation window;

an obtainment step, of obtaining a reply to the process end notice from the external apparatus,

wherein said memory management step releases the memory area in response to said obtainment step obtaining the reply from the external apparatus.

113. (New) A control method according to claim 112, wherein,
said control step controls the processing mechanism to execute a
print process,
said transmission control step controls, responsive to the processing
mechanism terminating execution of the print process, a transmission process of
transmitting a print end notice to the external apparatus so as to cause the display unit of
the external apparatus to display a print end confirmation window, and
said obtainment step obtains the reply sent from the external
apparatus in response to a user of the external apparatus entering a print end confirmation.

114. (New) A control method according to claim 112, further comprising
an execution step, of executing the command train to determine whether a result of
processing by the processing mechanism is an unrecoverable error, and if the result of
processing is an unrecoverable error, writing the occurrence of the unrecoverable error to a
memory area which is dynamically reserved for the agent information as a data field.

115. (New) A control method for controlling an office apparatus which
can be connected to a network, said control method comprising:
a reception control step, of controlling a reception process of
receiving agent information including a command train in which a work flow is
programmed describing a series of processes to be executed in a plurality of office
apparatuses;

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a control step, of controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

an execution step, of executing one of the series of processes described in the work flow to be executed in said office apparatus; and

a transmission control step, of controlling, responsive to said execution step terminating execution of the one process, a transmission process of automatically transmitting the agent information to an external office apparatus so as to cause the external apparatus to execute the command train based on the work flow.

116. (New) A control method according to claim 115, wherein said execution step executes the command train to determine whether a result of processing by the processing mechanism is an unrecoverable error, and wherein if the result of processing is an unrecoverable error, said execution step adds the occurrence of the unrecoverable error to the data and requests said transmission control step to transmit the agent information including the resulting data.

117. (New) A control method according to claim 115, wherein said office apparatus is a printer, and wherein the work flow is programmed such that the printer executes a print process and then transmits image data for printing to the external office apparatus and such that the external office apparatus stores the image data.

118. (New) A control method according to claim 115, wherein said transmission control step controls the transmission process to copy the agent information in

whole or in part and distributes the copied agent information to at least one external office apparatus such that the series of processes described in the work flow may be executed in parallel.

119. (New) A control method according to claim 115, wherein the agent information controls in the external office apparatus a process of voluntarily releasing a memory area reserved for the agent information with image data for printing processed by the agent information being retained.

120. (New) An office apparatus according to claim 115, wherein the processing mechanism includes at least one of an image filing mechanism, a scanner mechanism and a printer mechanism.

121. (New) A computer program product embodying a program for implementing a control method of controlling an office apparatus which can be connected to an external apparatus via a network, said program comprising:

program code for a reception control step, of controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train and data;

program code for a control step, of controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

program code for a memory management step, of managing a memory area for executing the command train included in the received agent information;

program code for a transmission control step, of controlling, responsive to said control step terminating execution of the control program based on the command train, a transmission process of transmitting a process end notice to the external apparatus so as to cause a display unit of the external apparatus to display a process end confirmation window;

program code for an obtainment step, of obtaining a reply to the process end notice from the external apparatus,

wherein said memory management step releases the memory area in response to said obtainment step obtaining the reply from the external apparatus.

122. (New) A computer program product embodying a program for implementing a control method of controlling an office apparatus which can be connected to a network, said program comprising:

program code for a reception control step, of controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train in which a work flow is programmed describing a series of processes to be executed in a plurality of office apparatuses;

program code for a control step, of controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

program code for an execution step, of executing one of the series of processes described in the work flow to be executed in said office apparatus; and

program code for a transmission control step, of controlling, responsive to said execution step terminating execution of the one process, a transmission

process of automatically transmitting the agent information to an external office apparatus so as to cause the external apparatus to execute the command train based on the work flow.

123. (New) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for controlling an office apparatus which can be connected to an external apparatus via a network, said memory medium comprising program codes that allow the office apparatus to execute:

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a reception control step, of controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train and data;

a control step, of controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

a memory management step, of managing a memory area for executing the command train included in the received agent information;

a transmission control step, of controlling, responsive to said control step terminating execution of the control program based on the command train, a transmission process of transmitting a process end notice to the external apparatus so as to cause a display unit of the external apparatus to display a process end confirmation window;

an obtainment step, of obtaining a reply to the process end notice from the external apparatus,

wherein said memory management step releases the memory area in response to said obtainment step obtaining the reply from the external apparatus.

124. (New) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for controlling an office apparatus which can be connected to a network, said memory medium comprising program codes that allow the office apparatus to execute:

a reception control step, of controlling a reception process of receiving agent information including a command train in which a work flow is programmed describing a series of processes to be executed in a plurality of office apparatuses;

a control step, of controlling a processing mechanism of said office apparatus by executing, based on the command train included in the received agent information, a control program that controls the processing mechanism;

an execution step, of executing one of the series of processes described in the work flow to be executed in said office apparatus; and

a transmission control step, of controlling, responsive to said execution step terminating execution of the one process, a transmission process of automatically transmitting the agent information to an external office apparatus so as to cause the external apparatus to execute the command train based on the work flow.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 25, 2002. Claims 101-124 are presented for examination. Claims 1-100 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 101-124 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 101, 104, 112, 115, and 121-124 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.